

The Journal Record

Civil rights attorney to speak at conference on justice system diversity

Tuesday, March 4, 2003

Fred D. Gray, president of the Alabama State Bar, will be the keynote speaker for "Defining Diversity: With Liberty and Justice for All," on Wednesday at the Oklahoma Bar Center.

Co-sponsors are the Oklahoma Bar Association and Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma Inc.

Gray, serving as the Alabama bar's first African-American president, has been practicing law for 45 years. Out of law school for less than a year, he represented Rosa Parks, who was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a bus to a white man, which ignited the Montgomery Bus Boycott. He also was Martin Luther King's first civil rights attorney.

OBA President Melissa DeLacerda of Stillwater will welcome conferees and deliver opening remarks. Randi Youells, vice- president for programs of the Legal Services Corp. in Washington, D.C., will speak on "Defining Diversity."

Other speakers will include Cynthia Tobar, Latino Community Development Agency; Giovanni Perry, attorney for Oklahoma Catholic Charities; Richard Ingham, legal services developer of the Oklahoma Department of Human Services' Aging Americans Division; Kayla Bower, Oklahoma Disability Law Center executive director; Mike Sikes of the Oklahoma Workers Compensation Court; Philip Lujan, of the University of Oklahoma; and Charles Tripp, a tribal court prosecutor.

Participation in the conference is by invitation only. People interested in receiving more information may call Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma at 557-0200.